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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
Twenty-eighth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA WITH ANNOTATIONS*

Twenty-eighth session, to be convened at United Nations Headquarters, on Tuesday, 19 February 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

8. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

9. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications,

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* Items 4 to 7 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990.

including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

10. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

11. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

12. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

13. Matters relating to astronomy.

14. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1991 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries".

15. Other matters.

16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Sub-Committee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Sub-Committee which have taken place since its twenty-seventh session.

2. Following the statement of the Chairman, the Sub-Committee will organize a schedule of work (see annex for provisional schedule of work).

Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

(a) Report of the Expert on Space Applications

4. The views of the Sub-Committee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1989-1991 were set out in paragraphs 22 to 37 of its report (A/AC.105/456). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the report of the Sub-Committee on this item were reflected in paragraphs 33 to 43 of the report of the Committee. 1/

5. The Sub-Committee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1990 and 1991, as well as the activities proposed for 1992 (A/AC.105/478).

6. In addition, the Sub-Committee will have before it reports on the following training courses/workshops: United Nations Workshop on Space Communications for Development: Current and Future Developments, Rural Communications, Search and Rescue Missions and Disaster Relief, organized in co-operation with the Government of Cuba, held at Havana from 26 to 30 March 1990 (A/AC.105/469); United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing for Educators, organized in co-operation with the Government of Sweden, held at Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 14 May to 15 June 1990 (A/AC.105/463); United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Technology, organized in co-operation with the Government of Brazil, held at Sao José dos Campos, Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 19 to 23 November 1990 (A/AC.105/471); as well as selected papers on remote sensing and space communications from the meetings held in 1990 under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/468).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system

7. The twelfth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held in Rome from 26 to 28 September 1990. The report of that meeting was issued in document ACC/1990/PG/9. The report on co-ordination is contained in the document entitled "Co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1991 and 1992 and future years" (A/AC.105/465).

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

9. The views of the Sub-Committee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 17 to 46 of its report (A/AC.105/456). The views of the Committee on the report of the Sub-Committee on the item are contained in paragraphs 26 to 49 of the Committee's report. 1/

10. In connection with the item, attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/45/589)

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and to the report of the Expert on Space Applications concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/478).

11. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be reconvened by the Sub-Committee at its current session.

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/456, annex II). In response to these recommendations, the Sub-Committee will have before it a number of documents: review of national and international space activities (A/AC.105/470), including information on space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international co-operation, on the capabilities of States in the areas of education, training, research and fellowship opportunities, and on the implementation of the priority recommendations of UNISPACE 82 addressed to Member States, in response to the requests of the Working Group in paragraphs 4 (c), 4 (j) and 6 (b) of its report; an addendum to the list of experts in space technology and applications (A/AC.105/460/Add.1), as requested in paragraph 4 (e); a report on arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional financial support for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/473), as requested in paragraph 4 (f); a report on economic aspects of strengthening and expanding national and regional data banks and establishing an international space information system as a co-ordinating centre (A/AC.105/474), as requested in paragraph 4 (m); a study on flood monitoring and control (A/AC.105/472), as requested in paragraph 5 (b) (iv); a report on upper atmosphere studies for weather and environment monitoring (A/AC.105/477), as requested in paragraph 5 (b) (vii); and a report on the implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations addressed to specialized agencies and other international organizations (A/AC.105/475), as requested in paragraph 6 (a).

13. In considering agenda item 5, the Sub-Committee should note that, in paragraph 8 of resolution 45/72, the General Assembly stated that:

> "it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:
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> "(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;
>
> "(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of co-ordination;
>
> "(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

"(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or post-graduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposures on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system".

Item 6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

14. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

15. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

16. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources regarding the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space (A/AC.105/456, annex II, para. 15), the Legal Sub-Committee's working group on the subject unanimously agreed to draft principle 3 relating to guidelines and criteria for safe use (A/AC.105/457, annex I, para. 12). The Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources, if required, will be reconvened during the current session of the Sub-Committee.

Item 8. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

17. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 9. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

18. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 10. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

19. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

20. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue, at its current session, consideration of this item, previously entitled "Progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme".

21. In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) have been invited to present reports and arrange a special presentation on this subject (see note d of the annex to the present provisional agenda).

Item 12. Matters relating to planetary exploration

22. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Matters relating to astronomy

23. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1991 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries"

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, which had been endorsed by the Committee, that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Sub-Committee at its current session should be "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries".

25. In accordance with the same resolution, COSPAR and IAF have been invited to arrange a symposium on this theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session, at the end of the meeting of the Sub-Committee, to complement its discussions (see note b of the annex to the present provisional agenda).

Item 15. Other matters

(a) International Space Year

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of resolution 45/72, endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee and the Committee that Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year (ISY), consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992.

27. A guidebook, prepared by the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division, containing details on the activities to be undertaken in observance of ISY by the United Nations in 1991-1992 in co-operation with Member States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental entities has been circulated to Member States.

(b) Space and Earth environment

28. The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of resolution 45/72, recommended that "more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment".

29. In paragraph 22 of the same resolution, the General Assembly considered that "it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris", and called for the continuation of national research on this question.

30. And in paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also considered that space debris could be an appropriate subject for discussion by the Committee in the future.

(c) Other reports

31. The Sub-Committee will also have before it the following documents:

(i) Progress of space research 1989-1990: report submitted by COSPAR (A/AC.105/479);

(ii) Highlights in space technology and applications 1990: report submitted by IAF (A/AC.105/476).

32. Additional reports may be submitted to the Sub-Committee as available.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20).

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Tuesday, 19 February	Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman Item 3 - General exchange of views	Item 3 - General exchange of views
Wednesday, 20 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 a/ Item 14 - Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries b/
Thursday, 21 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 a/	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 a/ Item 14 - Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries b/
Friday 22 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 a/	Item 8 - Space transportation systems Item 9 - Geostationary orbit
Monday, 25 February	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/
Tuesday, 26 February	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 11 - Earth environment d/	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 11 - Earth environment d/
Wednesday, 27 February	Item 10 - Life sciences Item 12 - Planetary exploration Item 13 - Astronomy	Item 10 - Life sciences Item 12 - Planetary exploration Item 13 - Astronomy
Thursday, 28 February	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/ Item 15 - Other matters	Item 15 - Other matters
Friday, 1 March	Item 16 - Report to the Committee	Item 16 - Report to the Committee

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* The provisional schedule of work has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

a/ The Working Group of the Whole, to be re-established under General Assembly resolution 45/72, paragraph 9 (see para. 11 of the present provisional agenda), will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 4 and 5.

b/ In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 45/72, a scientific symposium on the theme "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries", sponsored by COSPAR and IAF, will be held in two sessions on 19 and 20 February, following the adjournment of the afternoon meeting of the Sub-Committee. (A detailed programme for the symposium will be issued in due course.)

c/ The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, if reconvened (see para. 16 of the present provisional agenda), will meet during the period allocated for agenda item 7. The Sub-Committee will, if necessary, take up agenda item 7 again on Thursday, 28 February, to adopt the report of the Working Group if it is reconvened.

d/ In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 45/72, COSPAR and IAF will submit reports and arrange a special presentation on the Earth environment on 26 February.